

CLAIMS:

1. A process for the distribution of video sequences in accordance with a nominal stream format constituted by a succession of pictures, which nominal stream, on which an analysis is made prior to the transmission to the client equipment for generating a modified main stream, has the format of the nominal stream and has pictures modified by the substitution of certain data by data of the same nature but random or calculated, and has complementary information of any format comprising substituted data and digital information suitable for permitting the reconstruction of this modified nominal stream, and then for separately transmitting the modified main stream in real time or deferred time and the complementary information in real time at the moment of display from the server to the recipient equipment, and for which a synthesis of an available stream in a nominal format is calculated on the recipient equipment, reconstituted as a function of said modified main stream and of said complementary information and a reading of this available stream on the recipient equipment, characterized in that this process comprises during this reading of this stream a stage consisting of generating a position identifier as a function of the characteristics of this read stream, which position identifier is transmitted to the server that activates in response the sending of the complementary information as a function of this position identifier.

2. The process for the distribution of video sequences in accordance with Claim 1, characterized in that each picture of the nominal stream is associated with a position identifier.

3. The process for the distribution of video sequences in accordance with Claim 1, characterized in that the reading stage comprises an operation of calculating the position identifier of the picture read.

4. The process for the distribution of video sequences in accordance with Claim 1, characterized in that the reading stage comprises an operation of calculating the position identifier of the stream read.

5. The process for the distribution of video sequences in accordance with Claim 1, characterized in that the complementary information is transmitted in portions.

6. The process for the distribution of video sequences in accordance with Claim 1, characterized in that the available stream on the recipient equipment of which the reading conditions the position and the portion to be sent of the complementary information is a part of the modified main stream.

7. The process for the distribution of video sequences in accordance with Claim 1, characterized in that the available stream on the recipient equipment of which the reading conditions the position and the portion to be sent of the complementary information is a part of the reconstituted nominal stream.

8. The process for the distribution of video sequences in accordance with one of the previous claims, characterized in that the format of the nominal stream is defined by the MPEG-2 standard.

9. The process for the distribution of video sequences in accordance with Claim 8, characterized in that said position identifier for a picture is constituted by the time code variable associated with the group of pictures in which the picture under consideration is located and the temporal reference variable of the picture.

10. The process for the distribution of video sequences in accordance with one of the previous claims, characterized in that the format of the nominal stream is in the MPEG-2 TS format and that said position identifier is constituted by four variables identifying the program, program clock reference, continuity counter and occurrence index of the continuity counter, which occurrence index of the continuity counter results from a calculation applied to the TS packets.

11. The process for the distribution of video sequences in accordance with one of the previous claims, characterized in that each portion of this complementary information sent by the server permits the reconstitution of at least one picture of the original stream during said synthesis.

12. The process for the distribution of video sequences in accordance with one of the previous claims, characterized in that the server adapts the size and the content of each portion of this complementary information to be sent as a function of said position identifier.

13. The process for the distribution of video sequences in accordance with one of the previous claims, characterized in that each portion of this complementary information is sent in advance relative to the instant of display of this picture of the stream reconstituted with this portion.

14. The process for the distribution of video sequences in accordance with one of the previous claims, characterized in that the sender adapts the sending of complementary information when the user of the recipient equipment makes a pause, stopping the transmission of complementary information.

15. The process for the distribution of video sequences in accordance with one of the previous claims, characterized in that the server adapts the sending of complementary information when the user of the recipient equipment makes a rapid advance or a rapid return by sending the portion corresponding to the proper position for the commands “rapid advance” and “rapid return”.

16. The process for the distribution of video sequences in accordance with one of the previous claims, characterized in that the server adapts the transmission of complementary information when a network breakdown occurs that prevents the client-server communication by stopping the transmission of complementary information during the breakdown and restarting it when the breakdown stops and it again receives the messages coming from the client.

17. The process for the distribution of video sequences in accordance with one of the previous claims, characterized in that prior to the transmitting of the complementary information the server creates a table associating the pointers to the portions of the complementary information with the temporal [time-division] positions relative to the pictures of the video stream, stores this table on a support connected to the server and consults this table in order to determine the portion of complementary information to be transmitted after having received said position identifier.

18. Equipment for the production of a video stream for implementing the process in accordance with one of the previous claims, comprising at least one multimedia server containing the original video sequences, a device for analyzing the video stream coming from this server for generating said modified main stream and said complementary information, characterized in that it comprises a device for synchronizing the transmission of this complementary information as a function of said position identifier transmitted by the recipient equipment.

19. A system for the transmission of a video stream in accordance with Claims 1 to 16, characterized in that it comprises equipment for producing a video stream, at least one piece of equipment for making use of a video stream and at least one communication network between the production equipment and the piece or pieces of equipment for said making use [exploitation].